



Luis R. Garcia, Jr.

Florida House of Representatives, District 107

Ranking Member, Federal Affairs Subcommittee; Education Committee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

October 26, 2011

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

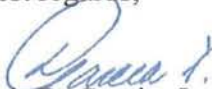
By way of this letter, I am urging you to keep the Lifeline program free to those who qualify and to refrain from implementing any type of additional subscriber fees for the service. The Lifeline program has been a crucial program for many Floridians who may have otherwise been unable to afford a reliable telephone service. During this time of economic downturn it is unconscionable to consider increasing fees on those Americans who can least afford to take another hit. Additionally, a fee increase would be detrimental to the many Elderly Floridians, on fixed incomes, who benefit greatly from this program.

The Federal Communications Commission has wisely acknowledged that as we move towards an increasingly wireless world, Lifeline cannot lag behind. It is imperative that consumers have the choice to opt for assistance with cellular telephone service in addition to a landline without the fear of additional fees.

Lifeline has been a success due in part to the program's reasonable eligibility guidelines. With more people applying for benefits like SNAP and TANF, we cannot put barriers up between the people we represent and the services they need.

The FCC made the right move when it established Lifeline without any user fees, and now is not the time to begin. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your decision.

Best regards,


Luis R. Garcia, Jr.

Florida State Representative, District 107